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A SELECTION OF CASES ON EVIDENCE for the Use of Students of Law. Compiled and edited by John Henry Wigmore, Professor of the Law of Evidence in Northwestern University Law School. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1906, pp. xxvi, 822.

Professor Wigmore's book of cases on evidence has been prepared to meet the need, as felt by him as a teacher, of a book of cases on this branch of the law extensive enough to illustrate in considerable detail the principles involved. To do this has necessitated the cutting out of everything which was not essential to the consideration of the particular question of evidence. This work in the hands of one less skillful than Professor Wigmore would be of doubtful value. Considering the ripe scholarship of the compiler, his special qualification for work in this field, it was to be expected that the work would be as well done by him as it could be by any one. An examination discovers that the cases lose little if anything through the abbreviations. Those inclined to criticise such "mutilation" of cases are to remember first, that it makes possible the selection of a much greater variety of cases than would be possible otherwise, and still keep the work within such compass as makes it practicable for student use; and secondly that the principle for which the case stands is stripped of everything tending to obscure it and is readily apprehended by the student. The arrangement is substantially that followed by the author in his great work on the law of evidence.

Some might choose to make a slightly different arrangement of subjects, but it is doubtful if any substantial rearrangement would result in improvement.

There is a general introduction dealing with the question of what is the law of evidence; an effort to differentiate rules of evidence from rules of substantive law, and to show that the principles lying at the foundation of this system of rules are the same, regardless of the fact to be established or the particular character of the proceeding in which they are applied.

Brief introductions precede the cases under each title, and under many of the sub-titles, serving to give outlines of the subject matter involved in the cases following. These brief discussions together with the table of contents furnish the prospective, so to speak, to the student, enabling him to see the subject as a whole.

The excellencies of the book will not be found to consist in any particular novelty. It has had its progenitors, without which doubtless the excellency attained here could not have been reached. Its merit will chiefly be found in the particular arrangement, in the variety of illustrative cases made possible by their abbreviation and in the wisdom exercised in the choice of cases.

Each teacher has, or ought to have, his own ways of doing his work, and the particular method of work of Professor Wigmore will not be that of any one else it may be. But though the particular plan for teaching the law of evidence outlined in the preface of the book may not be that pursued by any one else it is certain to be true that this collection of cases will furnish an excellent backbone for a course of instruction in the law of evidence. We have here still "Autoptic Proference," "Prophylactic," "Simplicior" and

"Preferential" in the nomenclature used, and while not entire strangers we are still wondering whether their acquaintance is going to prove advantageous.

Its publication by Little, Brown and Company is a guaranty of the best of taste and mechanical skill in the art of book making, and the book meets the guaranty.

V. H. L.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN COUNTIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES. By John A. Fairlie, Ph. D., University of Michigan. New York: The Century Co., 1906, pp. xii, 289.

The American State Series, edited by Professor W. W. Willoughby of Johns Hopkins University, is completed in this book of Dr. Fairlie's, which treats of non-urban local government. The task of collecting and classifying the numberless details of local administration in all of our forty-five commonwealths is a tremendous undertaking, but the author has accomplished it exceedingly well; the enormous amount of labor represented by this small book can hardly be appreciated by one who is not familiar with the difficulties attending the examination of our vast body of statute law, and the fact that the present mechanism of local government is here so clearly and systematically set forth, is proof that the author has a mastery of his subject based upon both clear thinking and great industry. The only regret one can feel on reading the book is that, within a few years, it will have become out of date and inaccurate because of the undirected and misdirected tinkering which is continually being done by our state legislatures.

The first three chapters of the book are devoted to a swift survey of the historical development of local institutions in England, in the American Colonies, and in the states. The treatment of this subject is necessarily brief, and no attempt is made to discuss, or even to indicate the author's personal opinion of, the various mooted points regarding the origin and early growth of the township, hundred and shire. In the following section of the work, devoted to the structure and functions of the county, Dr. Fairlie has departed from the traditional method of treating the subject, and does not classify these states into geographical divisions. As applied to the study of existing institutions, this expedient is certainly an improvement from the standpoint of convenience and gives to the discussion of the subject the advantage of totality; on the other hand, the division of the states into geographical groups (which are geographical only incidentally, and are really based on a likeness in institutions, caused by the fact that the settlers from the Atlantic coast went generally straight west and took their governmental institutions with them), might be of greater advantage in the treatment of the subject from an historical point of view. It can hardly be denied that the typical forms of local organization which existed in the various parts of the seaboard states were generally reproduced, with some variations of detail, in the western country as it was settled by immigrants from the east, and it is likewise true that the general course of emigration was along east and west lines. Naturally the same differences in structure which existed between the different divisions of the original states were repeated in the new communities as they grew up, and these differences naturally led students of the subject to adopt